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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 ROME 000760

SIPDIS

AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FOR AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND USAID DEPUTY DIRECTOR FREEMAN USAID/W FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, D/A SCHIECK, AA/DCHA UNCLASSIFIED

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WINTER, AA/AFR NEWMAN AND DAA/AFR BROWN, DCHA/D/FFP LANDIS,
D/OFDA MCCONNELL, AA/GLOBAL PETERSON
STATE FOR P U/S GROSSMAN, U/S LARSON, IO A/S HOLMES, A/S PRM
DEWBY, A/S AFR KANSTEINER, AFR/EA, IO/EDA WINNICK
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN AND CHAMBLISS
USDA/FAS NAIROBI FOR KESSLER
USMISSION GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOLRY AND USAID/KYLOH
BRUSSELS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS AND USAID/LERNER
NSC FOR JDWORKEN AND AFRICA DIRECTORATE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP UN

SUMMARY

11. A TEAM LED BY AMBASSADOR TONY HALL AND AA/DCHA ROGER WINTER VISITED ETHIOPIA FEBRUARY 15-21 AND FOUND THE COUNTRY WITH THE SECOND LARGEST POPULATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN A MAJOR HUMANITARIAN DISASTER. IN 2003, SOME 11.3 MILLION DROUGHT VICTIMS WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 1.4 MILLION TONS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE AND AN ADDITIONAL 3 MILLION WILL NEED TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED. WITH 20 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIA'S POPULATION AT RISK, UNLESS DEFTLY HANDLED, 2003 COULD WELL BECOME A CRISIS OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE TO THE CATASTROPHE OF 1984 WHEN ONE MILLION PEOPLE DIED. GIVEN THE DEPTH AND WIDE GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF THE HUNGER, GREATER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 00760 01 OF 06 241650Z LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL IS REQUIRED. AND DONOR CAPITALS NEED TO BE SEIZED WITH A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF URGENCY. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND - "TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT US - WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE AROUND IN THREE MONTHS." A WOMAN'S RESPONSE DURING A MULTI-AGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENT TRIP TO HARARGE IN LATE 2002

- 12. AMBASSADOR TONY HALL, US MISSION TO ROME; AA/DCHA ROGER WINTER; ROME HUMANITARIAN ATTACHE, TIM LAVELLE; AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AA/DCHA, JENNY MARION VISITED ETHIOPIA FEBRUARY 15-21. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS IN ADDIS ABABA WITH U.S. EMBASSY/USAID, UNITED NATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) AND GFDRE FUNCTIONARIES, THE TEAM SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN RURAL AREAS REVIEWING WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND NGO IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND LONGER-TERM OPERATIONS.
- 13. ETHIOPIA HAS THE SECOND LARGEST POPULATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND AN ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME OF ONLY U.S. 100 DOLLARS. THE COUNTRY IS ONCE AGAIN FACED WITH THE THREAT OF FAMINE. IN 2003, SOME 11.3 MILLION DROUGHT VICTIMS WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 1.3 MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAINS AND 125,000 METRIC TONS OF ENRICHED FOODS. AN ADDITIONAL 3 MILLION POTENTIALLY AT-RISK WILL NEED TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED. NOTE: AMBASSADOR HALL, WHO TRAVELED IN THE RURAL ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS IN 1984 AND A NUMBER OF TIMES SINCE THEN, FOUND THE PRESENT SITUATION "EVEN WORSE THAN I EXPECTED. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF MALNUTRITION, AND I AM NUMBED BY THE SHEER NUMBERS OF ACUTELY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN." END NOTE. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 14. SECURING A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR ITS PEOPLE HAS BEEN A PRIORITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND DONORS FOR 20 YEARS. IN SPITE OF GOOD EFFORTS, FOOD INSECURITY REMAINS THE COUNTRY'S MOST DEEP-ROOTED PROBLEM. THE CATASTROPHIC FAMINE OF 1984-85 WAS FOLLOWED BY SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES IN 1992, 1994, 2000 AND 2002. (THERE HAVE BEEN 15 DROUGHTS SINCE 1965.) NOTE: OF THE COUNTRY'S 67.2 MILLION, ALMOST HALF 28 MILLION LIVE IN DEEP AND LONG-TERM POVERTY, AND ARE VULNERABLE TO DROUGHT, ACUTE MALNUTRITION AND EVEN, AT EXTREME MOMENTS, TO STARVATION. END NOTE.
- 15. A NOVEMBER 2002 MULTI-AGENCY PRE-HARVEST ASSESSMENT CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD CROP FAILURES IN LOWLAND AREAS IN THE NORTH, EAST, SOUTH AND CENTRAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. SOME MIDLAND AREAS ARE ALSO BADLY AFFECTED. A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL SURPLUS-PRODUCING AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED, REDUCING NATIONAL FOOD AVAILABILITY.

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ACTION SSO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 ANHR-00 E-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 IO-00 PHB-00 PRM-00 SS-00 /002W 241650Z /38

P 241558Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8426
USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2563
INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
IGAD COLLECTIVE

SECDEF WASHDC USEU BRUSSELS 3137 USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SIPDIS

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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FOR AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND USAID DEPUTY DIRECTOR FREEMAN USAID/W FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, D/A SCHIECK, AA/DCHA UNCLASSIFIED

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WINTER, AA/AFR NEWMAN AND DAA/AFR BROWN, DCHA/D/FFP LANDIS,
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP U</u>

16. OVERALL, THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION BOTH IN THE CROPPING AND PASTORAL AREAS IS POOR. RECOURSE TO MARKETS IS LIMITED BECAUSE OF LOW OR LACK OF PURCHASING POWER AND CEREAL PRICE HIKES (UP 20-30 PERCENT IN MANY AREAS COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO) - AND FALLING LIVESTOCK PRICES. AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE 2000 AND 2002 DROUGHTS HAD FOR MANY A WITHERING IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLD ASSETS.

WHAT THE TEAM SAW

17. AMBASSADOR HALL AND TIM LAVELLE TRAVELED TO THE EAST SHEWA (NAZARETH) ZONE AND ARSI, OROMIYA REGION (TRADITIONALLY A FOOD SURPLUS AREA) AND REVIEWED WFP-UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPORTED FOOD-FOR-ASSETS CREATION AND PROTECTION. WFP,
WORKING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IS SUCCESSFULLY
PROMOTING ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL FOCUSED ON
BULLDING SKILLS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (PONDS, GULLY CONTROL,
REFORESTATION, ETC) THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS SUPPORTED BY FOOD
ASSISTANCE. DROUGHT-RELATED GENERAL DISTRIBUTIONS WERE ALSO
OBSERVED. NOTE: TOO LITTLE INVESTMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN
IRRIGATION OR OTHER SYSTEMS TO MANAGE WATER SUPPLY - ONLY
ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIA'S POTENTIALLY IRRIGABLE LAND IS
PRESENTLY IRRIGATED. END NOTE.

- 18. THE ENTIRE TEAM VISITED THE SOUTHERN, NATIONS AND NATIONALITIES, PEOPLES REGION (SNNPR) WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA'S (GFDRE) COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS (DPPC) AND REVIEWED ACTIVITIES OF WORLD VISION, THE IRISH-NGO PROJECT CONCERN AND AN ETHIOPIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, PROJECT MERCY. THESE NGOS ARE PERFORMING IN A TRULY EXEMPLARY MANNER IN IDENTIFYING GAPS AND PROVIDING SUPPORT WHERE GOVERNMENT SERVICES ARE WEAK OR UNADAPTED TO LOCAL NEEDS. THEY ARE POWERFUL INSTRUMENTS IN PROMOTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND GIVING A VOICE TO THE POOR. AND WHILE THEY ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IT WAS GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT THE GFDRE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZING NGOS AS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT FORCE AND PARTIMER. NOTE: WORLD VISION'S OWN 2003 PLANNED CONTRIBUTION (RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT) TO ETHIOPIA IS A TRULY IMPRESSIVE U.S. 17 MILLION DOLLARS. END NOTE.
- 19. THE "INVESTMENTS" OF WORLD VISION AND LIKE-MINDED NGOS AND DONORS IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN, IF PLANNED
WELL, GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE DELIVERY OF LIFE-SAVING FOOD
AID. THE PROJECTS THAT WE SAW AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS
POSSIBLE TO BUILD A PLATFORM FROM WHICH PEOPLE CAN, WITH COMPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS, GRADUATE OUT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF.

PROJECT MERCY - "EACH FACE BEAMS WITH HOPE"

110. PROJECT MERCY, STARTED IN 1977 BY AN ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE COUPLE (MARTA GABRE-TSADICK AND DEMME TEKLE-WOLD) IS A FORT WAYNE, INDIANA REGISTERED NGO WHICH MINISTERS TO THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF AFRICAN REFUGEES. IN YETEBON (GURAGUE ZONE, SNNPR), PROJECT MERCY IS FOCUSED ON HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. TO DATE, PROJECT MERCY'S ACTUVITIES IN YETEBON (1993-PRESENT) HAVE BEEN FUNDED (U.S. DOLLARS 4.43 MILLION) EXCLUSIVELY BY PRIVATE U.S. DONATIONS. IMPELLED BY THE

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ACTION SSO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 10-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PMB-00 PRM-00 SAS-00 -00 AID-00 ANHR-00 E-00 UTED-CE-00 OIC-02 PM-00 P-00 SS-00 4-00 SAS-00 /002W ------3A9213 241651z /38 UTED-00 TEDE-00 SS-00 TEST-00

P 241558Z FEB 03 P 241558Z FEB 03 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8427 USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2564 INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE TGAD COLLECTIVE SECDEF WASHDO USEU BRUSSELS 3138 USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SIPDIS

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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FOR AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND USAID DEPUTY DIRECTOR FREEMAN USAID/W FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, D/A SCHIECK, AA/DCHA UNCLASSIFIED

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WINTER, AA/AFR NEWMAN AND DAA/AFR BROWN, DCHA/D/FFP LANDIS,
D/OFDA MCCONNELL, AA/GLOBAL PETERSON
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP U</u>

FAILED RAINS IN THIS ABOVE-AVERAGE FOOD-PRODUCING ZONE, PROJECT MERCY HAS NOW EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTREACH PROGRAM TO MORE THAN 200,000 PEOPLE IN EIGHT WOREDAS (DISTRICTS) OF THE SOUTHERN REGION. MARTA TOLD OUR TEAM: "WE DESPERATELY NEED TO FOCUS ON THE MALNUTRITION OF CHILDREN." IN OUR FIELD VISITS WITH PROJECT MERCY (IN GURAGE AND SLITI ZONES) WE PERSONALLY SAW HUNDREDS OF EXCEEDINGLY UNDERNOURISHED INFANTS/SMALL CHILDREN. THE PROJECT MERCY DOCTOR WOULD POINT TO A CHILD AND SAY: "THIS ONE WILL BE DEAD BY DAY'S END." "THAT ONE WILL MOST LIKELY DIE TODAY OR TOMORROW." FAILED RAINS IN THIS ABOVE-AVERAGE FOOD-PRODUCING ZONE

HIV/AIDS - "INHERIT THE WHIRLWIND" UNCLASSIFIED

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111. TODAY, ETHIOPIA HAS THE THIRD LARGEST NUMBER OF HIV/AIDS POSITIVE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD - OVER 3 MILLION AFFECTED, 250,000 ARE CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE AND THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED ONE MILLION HIV/AIDS ORPHANS. THE TEAM WAS INFORMED THAT THE PRESENT DEVASTATING DROUGHT WILL ONLY SPIRAL THESE NUMBERS UPWARDS AS DROUGHT VICTIMS INCREASINGLY MIGRATE TO URBAN AREAS, EVEN IF ONLY TEMPORARILY. IN A COUNTRY WHERE POTENTIAL HEALTH SERVICE COVERAGE HOVERS AROUND 50 PERCENT, COMBATING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS HAS TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD AT ALL LEVELS (GOVERNMENT, UN, NGOS, CIVIL SOCIETY) AS A FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGE THAT IS POISED TO WIPE OUT THE LAST TWO DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT. A PROJECT MERCY DOCTOR WHO TRAVELED TO A CATHOLIC CHURCH-RUN HOSPITAL IN THE VALLEY BEYOND THE YETEBON HILL INFORMED THAT THE MAJORITY OF BEDS THERE WERE FILLED WITH AIDS PATIENTS. NOTE: PROJECT MERCY'S HOSPITAL WILL OPEN ITS DOORS THIS MAY. END NOTE. AMBASSADOR HALL INTERVIEWED A YOUNG MARRIED WOMAN AT A SNNPR FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITE. "HAVE YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND DISCUSSED HIV/AIDS?" "YES, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT." "DO YOU KNOW WHAT CAUSES IT AND HOW IT CAN BE PREVENTED?" "NO, WE DO NOT."

U.S. MISSION/ROME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

112. WHILE THE UNITED STATES (WITH A COMMITMENT TO DATE OF 289,000 MTS) HAS RESPONDED GENEROUSLY TO THE 2003 JOINT GFDRE/UN FOOD AID APPEAL FOR 1.44 METRIC TONS, GIVEN THE GRAVITY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, A FURTHER COMMITMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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300,000 MTS IN GRAINS AND BLENDED FOODS IS STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED. NOTE: SURVEYS IN THE AMHARA, OROMIA AND SOMALI
REGIONS PRESENTLY RECORD GLOBAL ACUTE MALNUTRITION OF AROUND
15 PERCENT, WHICH IS IN THE CRISIS RANGE BY INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS. END NOTE. A WOMAN AT A FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITE
TOLD AMBASSADOR HALL: "I LEAVE THE HOUSE EARLY EVERY MORNING
BECAUSE I CAN'T FACE MY CHILDREN WITH THE TRUTH THAT WE HAVE
BARELY ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT ONCE A DAY." NOTE: THE HEIGHT OF
THE "HUNGER SEASON" WILL OCCUR IN THE APRIL THROUGH JUNE
PERIOD. END NOTE. (GIVEN THE SCARCITY OF GRAINS, THE RATION
PER PERSON HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM THE NUTRITIONALLY
RECOMMENDED 15 KILOGRAMS PER PERSON PER MONTH TO 12.5
KILOGRAMS.) KILOGRAMS.)

113. GREATER LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL IS REQUIRED. IN PARTICULAR THE UN SHOULD:

-NAME A SPECIAL ENVOY TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF UN OPERATIONS IN RESPONDING TO

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ACTION SSO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 ANHR-00 E-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 AID-00 IO-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PMB-00 PRM-00 SAS-00 ..-uU P-00 /002W SS-00 PM-00 TEST-00 ----3A921E 241651Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8428

USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2565 INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA AMEMBASSY NAIROBI EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IGAD COLLECTIVE SECDEF WASHDC USEU BRUSSELS 3139 USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 12938: N/A

TAGS: <u>EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP </u>

THE PRESENT DROUGHT IN BOTH ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA;
-PRIORITIZE ASSISTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONWIDE
NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND ASSIST THE GFDRE IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION POLICY;
-PURSUE MORE VIGOROUSLY PROGRAMS THAT DELIVERS A COMBINATION
OF SERVICES (FOOD SUPPLEMENTS, MICRO-NUTRIENTS, HEALTH
INPUTS, IMMUNIZATIONS, ETC.) TARGETED TO THE MOST
NUTRITIONALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN THE POPULATION (E.G.,
INFANTS AND PREGNANT WOMEN);
-QUICKLY INTENSITY AND EXPAND ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN
HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, CARE FOR ORPHANS, AND
TRAINING FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS TO BETTER MANAGE
STI/HIV/AIDS. SPECIFICALLY, THE UN (AND THEIR PARTNER NGOS)
SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FOOD DELIVERIES (WHERE LARGE
NUMBERS OF BENEFICIARIES OFTEN WAIT FOR HOURS TO RECEIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THEIR RATION) TO IMPART MOTHER-CHILD CARE HEALTH TRAINING
AND NUTRITION EDUCATION MESSAGES. IN PARTICULAR, FEEDING
SITES COULD SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST
MEASLES AND OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS TYPHUS,
RELAPSING FEVER, MENINGITIS.

NOTE: THE TEAM REPEATEDLY HEARD THAT IN THIS EMERGENCY, EXCEPTING WFP, THE REST OF THE UN ORGANIZATIONS IN ETHIOPIA ARE "NOT EVEN ON THE RADAR SCREEN." AA/DCHA WINTER COMMENTED THAT TO DATE "HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A SINGLE CALL FROM ANYONE IN THE UN-SYSTEM ON THE PRESENT ETHIOPIA CRISIS." AMBASSADOR HALL, WHEN WE MET WITH THE UN COUNTRY TEAM ON THE FINAL DAY OF OUR TRIP, REMINDED THEM THAT: "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW." END NOTE.

- 114. THE GFDRE, DONORS AND THE UN NEED TO REASSESS THE SIZE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY (EFSR) RESERVE (PRESENTLY 407,000 MTS). GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF RECENT DISASTERS, A RESERVE OF 650,000-750,000 MTS WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE. A LARGER RESERVE COULD ALSO SERVE AS A PRICE-APPROPRIATE. A LARGER RESERVE COULD ALSO SERVE AS A PRICESTABILIZATION MECHANISM IN GOOD YEARS. NOTE: EVEN IN NONDROUGHT YEARS, ABOUT 5 MILLION PEOPLE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE
  MONEY TO BUY FOOD. END NOTE. SPECIFICALLY, WFP IS ENCOURAGED
  TO UTILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
  (IFPRI), A PART OF THE CGIAR-NETWORK, TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
  THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF LOCAL GRAIN PURCHASES BY DONORS WITHIN ETHIOPIA.
- 115. ETHIOPIA CONTRIBUTED 100,000 MTS IN EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE EFSR FROM THEIR BUDGET IN 2000 AND 45,000 MTS IN 2002. GFDRE SHOULD BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO MATCH UNCLASSIFIED

ROME 00760 04 OF 06 241651Z PAGE 04 ITS 2000 CONTRIBUTION IN 2003.

- 116. P.L.480 TITLE I AND/OR FOOD FOR PROGRESS BILATERAL OPTIONS SHOULD BE URGENTLY REVIEWED WITH USDA/FAS' REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE. NOTE: A TITLE I CONTRIBUTION COULD BE "EARMARKED" BY THE GFDRE FOR THE EFSR AS WAS DONE WITH USAID/TITLE III FOOD ASSISTANCE IN 1999. END NOTE. IN THE LONGER-TERM, GFDRE AND DONORS NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ETHOPIA'S STRUCTURAL FOOD DEFICIT (APPROXIMATELY 700,000 MTS/ANNUM) AND FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE NATIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPORT FOOD ON TIME TO WHERE IT IS NEEDED AND DIRECTLY ADDRESS THIS DEFICIT IN ITS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES. MOREOVER, THE DPPC COMMISSIONER PROMISED A LETTER REQUESTING USDA TO SUPPLY 10,000 MTS OF SECTION 416(B) MILK POWDER FOR THE PRESENT EMERGENCY. THE PRESENT EMERGENCY.
- 117. GIVEN THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SUPPLEMENTARY FOODS PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY, USAID SHOULD FUND THE IMMEDIATE PURCHASE OF BLENDED FOOD FROM THE HOUSE OF MANGO IN NAIROBI AND BEGIN OVERLAND SHIPMENTS FROM MOMBASSA TO DJIBOUTI AS

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ACTION SSO-00 INFO LOG-00

LOG-00 AF-00 IO-00 NSCE-00 PMB-00 PRM-00 AID-00 OIC-02 SAS-00 0 ANHR-00 E-00 UTED 2 PM-00 P-00 SS-0 0 /002W -----3A922D 241652Z /38 SS-00 P 241558Z FEB 03

FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8429 USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2566 INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA AMEMBASSY NAIROBI EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IGAD COLLECTIVE SECDEF WASHDC USEU BRUSSELS 3140 USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SIPDIS

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12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP UN

SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHORT-TERM AIRLIFT OPERATION USING MILITARY ASSETS SHOULD ALSO BE EXPLORED. MOREOVER, USAID/OTHER DONORS SHOULD CONSIDER PROVISION (VIA AIRLIFT) OF BOTH F-75 AND F-100 FOR THERAPBUTIC FEEDING. UNICEF IS ENCOURAGED TO IMMEDIATELY INCREASE ITS CURRENT AVAILABLITY OF THESE SUPPLEMENTS AND TO BUILD UP A CONTINGENCY STOCK.

118. CONTINGENCY PLANNING EFFORTS SHOULD BE EXPLORED IN CASE 18. CONTINGENCY PLANNING EFFORTS SHOULD BE EXPLORED IN CASE THE THROUGHPUT OF THE PORT OF DJIBOUTI IS REDUCED BECAUSE OF SECURITY ISSUES OR CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS (THE LATTER IS NOT ENVISAGED WITH THE CURRENT DELIVERY SCHEDULE). A TRIAL SHIPMENT OF SOME 5,000 TO 10,000 MT OF CEREALS SHOULD BE DISPATCHED THROUGH PORT SUDAN.

## UNCLASSIFIED

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  119. USAID/WASHINGTON SHOULD EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE OFDA
  ASSESSMENT TEAM IN COUNTRY AND CONSIDER THE EXPANSION OF
  OFDA NON-FOOD SUPPORT COVERAGE, PRESENTLY ASSISTING 500,000
  VULNERABLE PEOPLE. FURTHER, USAID SHOULD PROVIDE (IF
  FEASIBLE) OFDA GRANT AUTHORITY IN COUNTRY TO BETTER ENSURE
  RAPID RESPONSE TO NON-FOOD REQUIREMENTS AND COUNTER-FAMINE
  MEASURES/INITIATIVES.
- 120. USAID ETHIOPIA IS TO BE LAUDED FOR REPROGRAMMING U.S. 17 MILLION DOLLARS IN UNUSED NON-PROJECT (NPA) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIOR YEARS FOR USE IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION INVENTIONS RELATED TO THE PRESENT CRISIS. USAID IS ENCOURAGED TO "SCRUB" FURTHER ITS IN-COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO TO ENSURE THAT ALL POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM "RESIDUES" HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.
- 121. US MISSION/ROME WILL DEEPEN DIALOGUE WITH FAO RELATED TO INTENSIFICATION OF FAO EFFORTS IN ETHIOPIA ON ITS ACKNOWLEDGED AREAS OF "COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE" (SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION, SPS CAPACITY BUILDING, REFORESTATION, TRANSBOUNDRY PESTS, GLOBAL EARLY WARNING, RIFT VALLEY FEVER CONTROL, ETC.).
- 122. GFDRE AND DONORS SHOULD FOCUS PRIORITY ATTENTION IN THE MEDIUM AND LONGER-TERM TO THE 156 ALREADY IDENTIFIED MOST DROUGHT-PRONE WOREDAS IN THE FOUR LARGEST GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS AND ASK GFDRE TO SIMILARLY PRIORITIZE THE MOST VULNERABLE WOREDAS IN SOMALI AND AFAR REGIONS.
- 123. THERE APPEARS TO BE A LOSS OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY AMONG SOME DONORS AND IN CERTAIN DONOR CAPITALS OF JUST HOW UNCLASSIFIED

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MASSIVE AND DEVASTATING WAS THE 1984-85 FAMINE. HIGH-PROFILE
CRISES ELSEWHERE HAVE KEPT ETHIOPIA OFF THE TELEVISION
SCREENS. AMBASSADOR HALL MET BY CHANCE WITH ONE DONOR WHO
(WHILE ADMITTING BEING UNABLE TO TRAVEL BEYOND ADDIS ABABA)
ASSURED THAT "THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IS
UNDOUBTEDLY EXAGGERATED" AND "THE MATTER IS WELL IN HAND."
HEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM. WE ALL NEED TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS
TO BROADCAST THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO AVERT IMMINENT
TRAGEDY. THE MEDIA NEEDS TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVELY ENCAGED. AS
PER THE U.S. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) (PRESENTLY
ASSESSING THE NUTRITIONAL AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASE STATUS IN
FOUR ETHIOPIAN GEOGRAPHIC ZONES), THEY ESTIMATE (FEBRUARYJUNE 2003) 32,000 EXCESS DEATHS DUE TO DROUGHT WILL OCCUR IN
THE REVIEWED AREAS. IF THIS TREND IS PROJECTED NATIONALLY,
(AND FACTORING IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO E.G., SUB-STANDARD
BELG RAINS), EXCESS DEATHS COULD REACH AS HIGH AS 300,000 TO
500,000 PEOPLE BY THE END OF 2003. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT
ACCEPTABLE.

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INFO LOG-00 ANHR-00 E NSCE-00 OIC-02 PRM-00 SAS-00 IO-00 PM-00 P-00 /002W SS-00 TEST-00 PMB-00

----3A9231 241652Z /38

P 241558Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8430
USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2567
INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
IGAD COLLECTIVE
SECDEF WASHDC
USEU BRUSSELS 3141
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 ROME 000760

SIPDIS

AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FOR AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND USAID DEPUTY DIRECTOR FREEMAN USAID/W FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, D/A SCHIECK, AA/DCHA UNCLASSIFIED

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WINTER, AA/AFR NEWMAN AND DAA/AFR BROWN, DCHA/D/FFP LANDIS,
D/OFDA MCCONNELL, AA/GLOBAL PETERSON
STATE FOR P U/S GROSSMAN, U/S LARSON, IO A/S HOLMES, A/S PRM
DEWEY, A/S AFR KANSTEINER, AFR/EA, IO/EDA WINNICK
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN AND CHAMBLISS
USDA/FAS NAIROBI FOR KESSLER
USMISSION GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOLRY AND USAID/KYLOH
BRUSSELS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS AND USAID/LERNER
NSC FOR JDWORKEN AND AFRICA DIRECTORATE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>EAID AORC PREF EAGR EU WFP UN EU EAID WFP U</u>

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM AMBASSADOR HALL

124. MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND STAFF FOR BRINGING TO FRUITION (ON FEBRUARY 20) A MONUMENT ON EMBASSY GROUNDS HONORING U.S. CONGRESSMAN MICKEY LELAND AND USAID/STATE DEPARTMENT STAFF, BOTH AMERICAN AND ETHIOPIAN - WHO TRAGICALLY DIED ON A HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO A REMOTE AREA OF WESTERN ETHIOPIA ON AUGUST 7, 1989. BOTH MICKEY AND I SERVED TOGETHER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS ON THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER WHERE HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO MAKE OTHER LIVES BETTER. AND WHILE MICKEY TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD TO ASSIST THE HUNGRY POOR, HE HAD A SPECIAL LOVE FOR ETHIOPIA. HE REMAINS FOR ME (AND FOR ALL WHO KNEW UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 00760 06 OF 06 241652Z HIM) A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE DEEP COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY OF AMERICA.

 $\ensuremath{\P 25}$  . As AA/DCHA WINTER WENT ON DIRECTLY TO SUDAN, HE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO CLEAR THIS CABLE. HALL

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